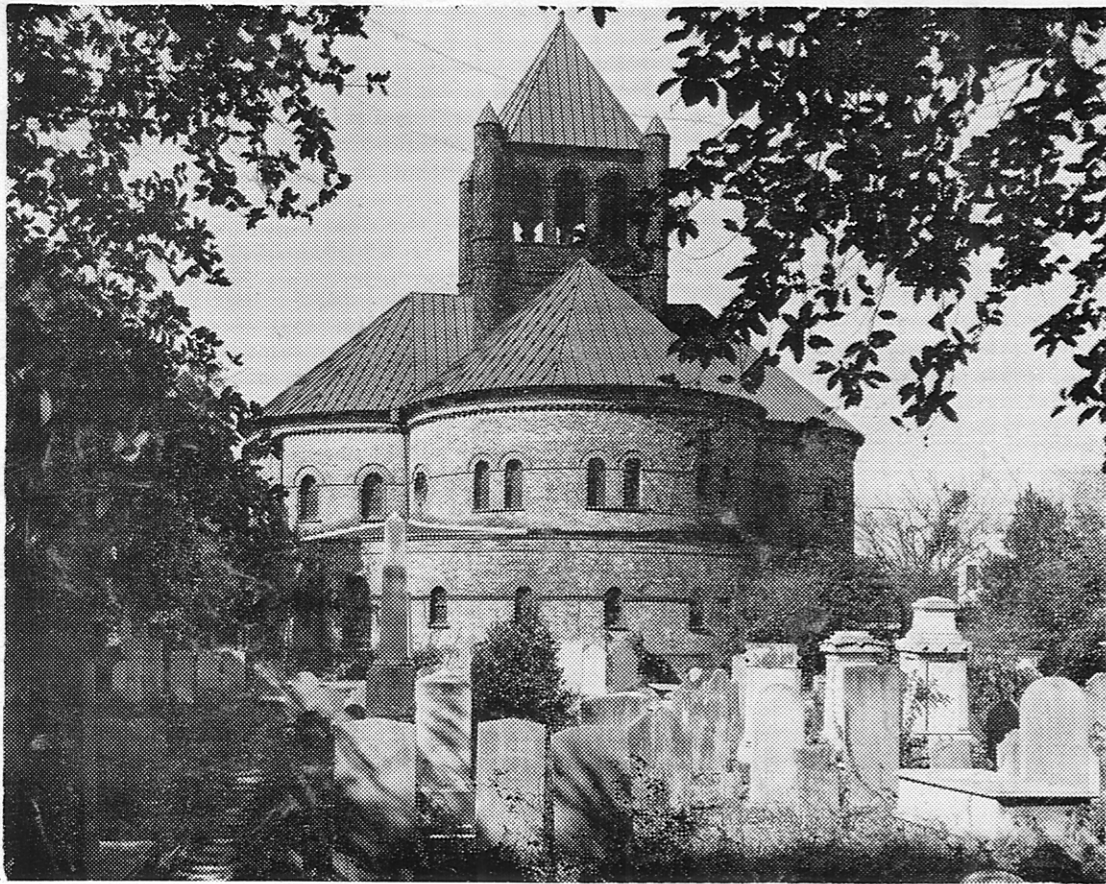


The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME 4 - NUMBER 7

APRIL, 1956



CIRCULAR CHURCH IN CHARLESTON, S. C. ESTABLISHED 1681

1956 Convention Issue

REPORT OF THE MODERATOR



REV. ARCHIE B. BEDFORD

I would begin this report by thanking each and every member of the Southeast Convention for the honor and privilege of serving as Moderator this year. Is is an honor. It is a privilege. I have tried to serve you well.

My most difficult task as Moderator was in the financial meetings. It is not easy to say "no" to worthy churches in their appeals for financial assistance, but the simple fact was and is that we do not have adequate finances in the Southeast Convention to give the needed assistance to all churches to enable them to carry on an aggressive program.

Because we were already pledged beyond the income that we were receiving, we simply had to table new requests for aid, hoping that later we could give such aid. This was not easy, for we knew these churches needed what they requested. The only solution to this problem is in securing more adequate finances for our work in the Southeast Convention.

This we have been seeking to do under the leadership of the Rev. Joe French, chairman of the Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education Committee, and the members of his committee. This committee sponsored the Every Church Canvass Training and "Our Day of Decision". It is only through such programs that we can hope to adequately finance our work.

We do feel that we now have the needed organization for effective work

in the Southeast Convention. We could not have a harder worker or a more capable leader than Erston M. Butterfield. Miss Annie R. Campbell is doing a fine work with our women and young people and is helping our churches do a more effective educational work. Most of her time is given to the smaller churches. We are grateful to Frank Gordon, for he is far more than a treasurer to the Convention. We would also say the same for Mrs. Montez Albright, who means much to our work.

We are an organization, working through the various committees and I am grateful for the splendid work these committees have been doing this year. Together we work and must work.

It is the privilege of your Moderator to be the Host Pastor for this meeting of our Convention in the old and historic Circular Congregational Church at Charleston. As Moderator and as Pastor of Circular Church I welcome you to the sharing of a fine program and a rich fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

Archie B. Bedford, Moderator

OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Albert Buckner Coe of Boston, Mass., will be the featured speaker at this annual meeting. As Moderator of the General Council, the highest honorary post which it is in the power of the denomination to bestow upon a member of its fellowship, Dr. Coe is the elected leader for the 1954-56 biennium of around 6,000 churches with a membership of 1,283,754.

The Congregational Christian churches are often referred to as the "spiritual descendants" of the Pilgrim churches. Their history roots deep into the story of America, beginning with the Mayflower Compact and running down to the present day.

Dr. Coe came to his national post with an unusual background of knowledge of the different parts of the USA, for he is a Southerner by birth, has held successful pastorates in the Middle West and New England, and is now Minister and President of the historic Massachusetts Conference.

Not only is Dr. Coe the member of a family which has supplied leaders in



DR. ALBERT BUCKNER COE

the Protestant ministry for five generations, but he has two sons who are Congregational Christian ministers in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Furthermore, two of his brothers are Congregational ministers.

As a world traveler, Dr. Coe has visited India and Ceylon under the American Board, and the Near East and Europe in the interests of Relief and Reconstruction work. In the spring of 1955 he made a Moderator's tour of the Hawaiian Islands.

Dr. Coe is president of the interdenominational Massachusetts Council of Churches. His interests stretch from Talladega College in Alabama and Berea College in Kentucky to Lady Doak College in Madura, South India, and Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Newton, Mass., for he is a trustee of all these institutions. He is also a member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the oldest foreign missionary society in America.

Dr. Coe was born in North Carolina and educated at Western Maryland College and Yale Divinity School. He did graduate work at Johns Hopkins University and also studied at Cambridge University in England.

From where I'm sitting tolerance is just a big word for peace. War can't get going where there's a sympathetic understanding of nation for nation, man for man, and creed for creed.—Bing Crosby

LAYMEN'S GUEST SPEAKER



J. U. Durham, Walter A. Graham and A. B. Snell looking over plans for Brookmeade parsonage.

Walter A. Graham, Executive Secretary of the National Layman's Fellowship, with headquarters in Pembroke, Ky., is well known throughout the Convention.

He has given generously of his time in helping with the organization of the laymen in the Southeast, participating in meetings as speaker and resource leader on many occasions in the past

several years.

In addition to his travel and promotion of the national Laymen's Fellowship, Mr. Graham also edits *The Fellowship*, monthly publication of the laymen.

He is also an accomplished organist, and in 1954 at the annual meeting held in Lanett, Ala., Mr. Graham served as organist for portions of the meeting.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GUEST SPEAKER

Mrs. Wm. E. Wisseman of Greensboro, N. C., when asked to give some biographical data on herself so that the Southeast Convention delegates could know more about her, insisted that she was "just a minister's wife" and not important enough to be written up as a guest speaker. However, she has served on an impressive number of boards and committees. She was president of the Woman's Fellowship of North Carolina, and later of the Southern Convention. She has served on the convention Board of Christian Education and is now acting president of the Mission Board.

Mrs. Wisseman has served as president of the Council of Church Women in Greensboro and also of the state and is now a member of the executive board of the North Carolina Council of Churches.

She is a vice president of the Board of Directors of the Board of Home Missions.

Before she married, Mrs. Wisseman was a director of religious education in the Indian school at Ft. Appachi, Arizona, and later the DRE at Burlington, N. C.

The Rev. Mr. Wisseman will accom-

pany his wife to the annual meeting. The two children are in college: the daughter is attending the Woman's College in Greensboro; and the son is finishing his second year of graduate work in Physics at Duke University.

Mrs. Wisseman's topic for the luncheon will be "A Chance to Be Big" — she says that although as individuals Christian women often feel unimportant, they do have a chance to be big in the world today.

Hints from the Wise

Our opportunities to do good are our talents. — Dr. Mather

Benevolent people are always cheerful. — Father Taylor

Carve your name on hearts, and not on marble. — Spurgeon

Every charitable act is a stepping stone toward heaven. — Beecher

Good, the more communicated, more abundant grows. — Milton

Good books are true friends. — Bacon

OUR CHAPLAIN



REV. W. RAYMOND BERRY

Our Chaplain for this annual meeting is one of the promising young ministers of the Southeast Convention, now serving the Antioch Congregational Christian Church near Andalusia, Ala.

Mr. Berry was born in Hackleburg, Ala., and attended the local schools through high school, graduating in 1945. He next attended Southern Union and Piedmont Colleges, and served the Cirbin Pilgrim and North Georgia Parish churches while attending college.

With the encouragement and help of Dr. David W. Shepherd and Miss Marguerite Davison, Mr. Berry received a scholarship to study at Hartford Seminary in 1952, receiving his B. D. in May, 1954.

Mr. Berry served as interim pastor at Circular Church for several months in 1950 and again during July and August in 1953, while the Rev. Bedford was on vacation.

On April 17, 1955, the Rev. Berry was ordained by Ecclesiastical Council of the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association in response to a request by the Antioch Church.

Mrs. Berry has a degree in Christian Education and has been of much help to the church and her husband.

The most brilliant qualities become useless when they are not sustained by force of character.—Segur

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STAFF

Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Supt. Editor

Rev. Annie Campbell, Minister Christian Education

Mrs. Ed A. Albright Registrar

Mrs. Jettie Logan Promotion

Volume 4 April, 1956 Number 7

Beginning with the 1956 year, the fiscal year of the Southeast Convention was changed, by vote of the Board of Directors and approval of the Board of Home Missions, from June 1 through May 31 each year to Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 so as to be in accord with the denominational year for the Year Book statistics. This simplifies the record keeping of the SEC office. Formerly we had to close the books twice each year: May 31 for the end of the fiscal year, and Dec. 31 for the compilation of figures for the year book.

This change in the fiscal year does complicate the treasurer's report this year, however. We will give the figures for the 7-month period June 1-Dec 31, 1955, and then the figures for Jan. 1-March 31, 1956. Hereafter the annual report will be for one full year. A detailed mimeographed report is available at this meeting and by request from the SEC office.



William Frank Gordon, Mrs. Louise Fuller and Mrs. Ed Albright

TREASURER'S REPORT

I. INCOME JUNE 1 — DECEMBER 31, 1955

A. Balance on hand June 1	584.67
B. From Board of Home Missions, for budget	15,571.65
C. From Board of Home Missions, designated	4,525.00
D. From Southeast Convention churches:	
1. For national Church Building Fund	\$123.00
2. For SOUTHEAST NEWS	497.96
3. For Per Capita Dues, 1955	1,763.37
4. For Our Christian World Mission	13,247.03
5. For Other Projects	920.74
	16,552.10
E. Other projects outside budget	882.00
F. Credits to budget items	690.90
	\$38,806.32

II. DISBURSEMENTS JUNE 1 — DECEMBER 31, 1955

A. Approved Budget	23,812.58
B. Designated expenditures, BHM	4,572.15
C. For SEC Churches, denominational projects	7,209.56
D. Other projects, outside budget	1,250.62
	\$36,894.81
Credits to budget items deducted from items:	690.90
Bank Balance as of 12-31-55	1,270.61
	\$38,806.32

III. INCOME JANUARY 1 — MARCH 31, 1956

A. Balance on hand, January 1	1,270.61
B. From Board of Home Missions, for budget	2,522.67
C. From Board of Home Missions, designated	300.00
D. From Southeast Convention Churches	6,290.58
E. Other projects outside budget	1,838.58
F. Credits to budget items	522.77
	\$12,745.31

IV. DISBURSEMENTS JANUARY 1 — MARCH 31, 1956

A. Salaries (\$2,799.98 less grp. ins. \$9; WH tax \$181.80)	\$2,609.18
B. Office supplies, rent, telephone	580.12
C. Miscellaneous Accounts, budgeted	2,217.07
D. Miscellaneous Accounts, unbudgeted	878.46
E. Aid to Churches program, Convention	2,629.96
F. Aid to Churches, BHM designated	450.00
G. Promotion	33.36
H. SOUTHEAST NEWS, printing and mailing	470.96
I. Travel (Supt. and Minister Christian Education)	1,154.62
J. Committees and Board of Directors, meetings	385.67
K. Parsonage	363.65
L. National Boards and Agencies, OCWM for January 25%	360.66
	\$12,083.71
Bank Balance as of March 31, 1956	661.60
	\$12,745.31

Now Due National Boards, OCWM 25% for February	\$474.61
OCWM 25% for March	594.70
	\$1,069.31

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

*In this free land by thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way."*

It has been with just such recognition of our dependence upon God and of our servitude to His Will and Way, that the office and field staff, the officers, the Board of Directors and the committees of the Southeast Convention have sought to serve among our churches during the past year. The loyal support and hearty cooperation of all — ministers and lay people alike — has led us on to even greater achievements and into even more meaningful fellowship.

As we look back over the past four years we see many evidences of progress. Our Southeast Convention at Chattanooga provided a new constitution under which an adequate and efficient organization has developed, enabling us to achieve an autonomous status among the other Congregational Christian conferences of the nation.

Every Church Canvass has provided the impetus for our continued drive toward complete self-support, and a more worthy participation in the fulfillment of "Our Christian World Mission." Invaluable service has been rendered by the extensive and constant day-to-day travel among the churches of the Convention by field staff and committees. The *Southeast News* and the weekly mailings from the Atlanta office have kept the churches in close touch with one another. The numerous institutes, workshops, training schools, convocations, camps, association and conference meetings all have helped us to see the goal more clearly, to understand our task more fully and to serve more faithfully.

Since it is always easier to measure vigor and vitality by the physical signs of action, a quick look at some figures from the Year Book will be quite revealing.

In 1951 our churches listed 9,829 members, giving \$8,967 to Our Christian World Mission, \$181,292 toward Home Expenses, valuing their church property at \$1,330,672, and paying their ministers an average yearly salary of \$1,369.

By 1953 our churches, listing 9,658 members, were giving \$12,919 to Our Christian World Mission, \$262,534 to Home Expenses, valuing property at \$2,315,305 and paying their ministers a more adequate average salary of \$2,809.

The 1955 statistics show that we now have 9,519 members contributing \$21,966 to Our Christian World Mission,

supporting Home Expense budgets of \$267,617, holding title to property valued at \$2,590,968 and paying an average salary for fulltime ministry of \$3,600.

During this same period 78 churches paid \$20,340.65 on pledges of \$29,953.35 to the national Church Building Loan Fund. (Pledge payments during this coming year will probably go beyond our Convention goal of \$30,000.)

Now, while these figures certainly do not provide conclusive evidence that our churches are any more Christian than they were in 1951; they are indicative of the interest and concern for the Christian Church and its mission to all the world. The past four years have witnessed more construction of new church buildings and parsonages, more expansion of existing facilities for church school and fellowship purposes, and more redecorating programs than any other similar period in the history of our churches here in the South.

But there is one figure given above that is most disturbing. Since 1951 our church membership has decreased from 9,829 to 9,519. Without a doubt our greatest need now lies in the field of Christian Evangelism and the winning of people to the Christian Fellowship. An aggressive program must be initiated at once to correct this downward trend in membership.

But the problem will not find its solution in aggressive programs of evangelism alone. The solution will depend up-



Rev. ERSTON M. BUTTERFIELD

on the quality of Christian witness on the part of all our people and the leadership we provide as members of the Christian Church in dealing with the significant problems and opportunities of our day. As Congregational Christians we need to think more clearly of what we are as a **Christian Fellowship**. What is a Christian Church and what is its **place and purpose** in the life of these troubled times? What are the criteria by which Christians arrive at decisions? How can we free ourselves from the motives of selfishness, fear, economy and convenience which restrain our Christianity and our Churchmanship?

Only as we find the right answers to these all-important questions can we bear a worthy witness to Christ and His Church; and so begin to command the respect, attention and loyalty of those who, like ourselves, are desperately searching for the Way, the Truth and the Life.

To this end, let us make the last stanza of our Convention Hymn our fervent prayer to Almighty God during the days which are before us:

*"Refresh thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never - ending day,
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud and praise be ever thine."*

Respectfully submitted,
Erston M. Butterfield

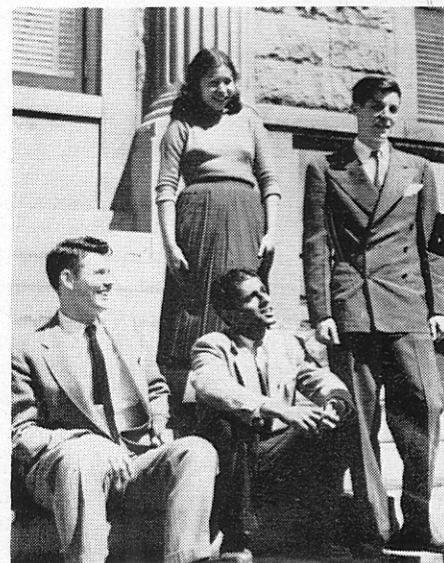
THE MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION'S REPORT

It hardly seems possible that April 15th marks one full year of service with you as your Minister of Christian Education. At first I had plenty of time in the office to work and plan, but lately I have been called upon more and more to serve the churches in the area. Things have begun to gather snowball momentum. Mrs. Albright and Mrs. Fuller are always ready to run things off on the mimeograph machine, adding their own original ideas and suggestions, and writing letters for me when I get pushed for time. As our superintendent is very much on the ball with his fine ideas of promotion, the place is usually quite a beehive of activity and we can never quite seem to get completely caught up.

Any meeting means a planning session, and often not just one but several, for summer conferences, PF rallies and Woman's Fellowship Spring Rallies and many others. I have attended four summer conferences, serving in various capacities, and many afternoon or weekend rallies of Pilgrim Fellowship. I assisted the young people in planning their first Work Camp and worked with and encouraged them, with the help of the office staff, in getting out special helps suitable for each of their three

commissions. I sat in on their planning sessions for the second annual convention - wide Pilgrim Fellowship meeting at Chattanooga and helped to organize a few new PF groups. I cannot speak too highly for the officers and commission chairmen of our Southeast Convention PF and for the district presidents who have gone ahead and accepted responsibility and shown initiative of their own.

I have just finished taking our speaker, Mrs. Samuel Keck, and some others around to our eight Woman's Fellowship Spring Rallies. Last year when the speaker had to get around on her own, those who attended the last rallies felt that she was too tired to give her best. This year, by taking our speaker by car, her last speech seemed as vigorous and interesting as her first one. Of course I attended all, or parts, of our Woman's Retreats last summer. I have shown our Woman's Gift picture, purchased by the women, many times. I have helped organize two new Woman's Fellowships and have visited several others. The good progress in our woman's work is due to the able officers who head up the work in our states and to the fine coordinator. All states were represented



Bill Green, Mathai Kenju from India, and Maggie Lossie and Carl Lambert from Cherokee Reservation at PF Conference

at the Mid-winter Meeting.

Part of my job is to attend all the fall association and conference meetings to promote our literature and publications. I met with the Christian Education Committee for help and consultation, gave some churches a boost with their use of Pilgrim Series literature, met with Sunday School teachers and leaders in several places to give ideas and helps in teaching, and taught some credit courses.

I have occasionally been called upon to preach, but feel that in this present job my service and strength should be concentrated on the field of Christian Education.

Our denomination always believes in cooperating with other denominations, so I have had a very nice association with the Georgia Council of Churches and am serving on the Christian Education Committee of that group.

It has been my very pleasant duty to attend our national Mid-winter meeting at Buck Hill Falls to get fresh ideas in all avenues of our work and to meet our leaders and have a better chance of expressing our wishes for this area.

I am hoping that together we may all look forward to the challenge of our times and try to meet that challenge with a prayerful Christian spirit — "With love and grace divine."

Respectfully submitted,
Annie R. Campbell



Mrs. Reiss from Southern Union, Miss Campbell, Mrs. Samuel W. Keck, and Mrs. Raymond Berry.

Christian Education

The members of the Christian Education Committee have been at work during the past year. With the aid of Miss Annie Campbell, the committee has been able to carry on with only one Convention-wide meeting, held at Southern Union College Nov. 7, 1955. At this meeting plans were made for summer camps: time, place and leadership. Materials for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School were discussed.

A mimeographed sheet outlining the duties of the Christian Education Committee on the local church level has been sent out to leaders along with plans for setting up such a committee in each church.

Plans were made to promote association libraries of Christian Education materials so that local church committees would have an opportunity to look over the materials to see what they could use to best advantage. South Alabama-NW Florida Association has started a fund for this.

Due to the distances to travel and lack of committee funds, it was suggested that each member of the committee help plan and attend meetings in his or her own area. This report, therefore, is not complete without the individual reports of each member of the committee as to the work each has accomplished. I wish we had the time and space for a report from each one.

I would like to express to the committee members, the leaders of various organizations, and to Miss Campbell my thanks for the good work done and the progress made in the field of Christian education.

Respectfully submitted,
Jettie Logan, chairman



Christian Education Committee: Rev. Henry Weaver, Mrs. Jettie Logan, Millard Fuller, Mrs. M. B. Porter, Rev. Carl Landes, Mrs. Raymond Berry, Rev. Raymond Berry

Pilgrim Fellowship Report

Again it is my pleasure to report that Pilgrim Fellowship has just completed another highly successful year. The growth and interest in Pilgrim Fellowship on the local level has increased substantially during the past year. The number of local groups has almost doubled, and the organized districts have continued to increase in strength and unity of purpose. The number of active districts now numbering seven include: the Kentucky-Tennessee district; the North, South, Central and Wadley districts of Alabama; the Valley district and the South Georgia district. Two other proposed districts within the Convention PF organization, namely one in Central and one in North Georgia, have begun to make plans to organize.

On the Convention level the Pilgrim Fellowship has shown new growth. If the annual conference is any indication of the state of things, then a brief look at this year's conference will certainly show a strong, united and dedicated group of young Christians working together for a stronger Pilgrim Fellowship, a better understanding of ourselves and God's plan for us, and a better church of tomorrow. Held at Pilgrim Church in Chattanooga on March 17 and 18, this second annual conference drew 209 delegates from all corners of the convention. The conference featured a series of 11 workshops ranging in subject matter from "Problems of Integration," "What Do Congregational Christians Believe," and "Religious Music" to "Facing Military Duty" and "Everyday Problems of Young People." The conference also featured a panel discussion on Indian Americans, a banquet at the Hotel Patten and many other things of interest to the young people of the convention.

Leadership for the conference was provided by such people as Mrs. Samuel Keck, outstanding lay leader in Indian work; Mr. Douglas Wasson, public relations director at Southern Union College; and Dr. Paul Reynolds of Pleasant Hill, Tenn. In addition outstanding ministers of the convention and staff personnel participated.

Election of delegates to the National Council of Pilgrim Fellowship and Convention PF officers was a highlight of the two-day meeting. Chosen to represent the SEC at the national PF meet-



Millard Fuller (outgoing president) and Albert Van Cleave (new president)

ing to be held in June at Crete, Neb., were V. R. Dobson of Lanett, Ala.; Betty Cunningham of Pleasant Hill, Tenn.; Ben Cooper of Tifton, Ga.; and Johnny Van Cleave of Wadley, Ala.

Albert Van Cleave, a high school senior from Wadley, Ala., was elected president of SEC Pilgrim Fellowship; V. R. Dobson was elected vice-president; Bill Green of Roanoke, Ala., is corresponding secretary; Patsy Yancey of Langdale is recording secretary; and Ben Cooper is the new treasurer. Commission chairman elected are: Action, Frank Little (Tenn.); Faith, Sandra Ellerbee (Ga.); Fellowship, Jean Vincent (Ala.)

A good year indeed. A better one to follow! It has been my personal pleasure to work with Pilgrim Fellowship for the past three years as president. I have certainly considered it a rare privilege to be a part of such a wonderful fellowship of Christians. I hope and pray that this fellowship continues to grow and prosper as a dynamic part of the Congregational Christian Churches in this area.

May God bless all of you who work in and for Pilgrim Fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Millard Fuller, Past-president

NOTICE!!

Other pictures taken at the PF Conference will appear in the May issue.

PF Reporters

Send in your local PF News!

MINISTRY AND CHURCHES REPORT

This committee has continued to make progress this year and the Ministers' Convocations and Courses of Study for In-service Training of Ministers, which began in 1954, held two more sessions this past year. The third in the series was held May 2-7, 1955. Supt. Butterfield taught a course in Religious Education and the Rev. Guy Colbert taught a course in Church History and Polity and Practice of the Congregational Christian Churches.

The Rev. Russell T. Loesch of New York City, minister and secretary to the chaplains and the armed forces personnel of the Congregational Christian Churches, acted as resource consultant and preached a sermon each evening.

The Rev. Carolyn Welch, librarian and professor of religion at Southern Union College, offered the Associates in Reading course at both the spring and fall convocations.

The fall convocation was held Nov. 28-Dec. 2, with President Flannery teaching a course in Christian Doctrine and Dr. Simon Bennett teaching a course in Christian Evangelism.

Professor Kendrick Grobel of Vanderbilt University, School of Religion, was the lecturer and resource leader for this convocation. Dr. Thomas Anderson was the convocation preacher and acted as co-ordinator for the session. This was probably the best session to date.

These convocations and training schools are held on the campus of Southern Union College and the committee takes this opportunity to thank President Flannery, Dean Van Cleave and



Reverends Guy L. Colbert, Earnest Shelton and Robert Shelton

SPRING CONVOCATION AND MINISTERS' SCHOOL

May 7-11, 1956

at Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala.

LECTURES

"Christian Ethics" by Rev. Archie B. Bedford

"Christian Doctrine" by Rev. Clyde C. Flannery

"Scripture Reading and Worship" by Rev. Robert Yoh

Each afternoon there will be a thirty-minute period of lectures and discussion on the denominational history, polity and practice of both the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. The Rev. Mr. Mehrtens of Cullman, Ala., will speak for the E. and R. Church, and the Rev. Mr. Goff Bedford of Tifton, Ga., will tell about the C. C. Churches.

Convocation Preacher — Rev. John B. Crutcher

the entire faculty and personnel of the college for their unselfish cooperation and many courtesies.

The next convocation will take place at SUC on May 7-11, 1956. President Flannery will continue the course in Biblical Doctrine and Professor Robert Yoh will begin a course in Scripture Reading and Worship. There should be a great deal of interest in this course among all who attend for there have been many requests for Professor Yoh to teach such a course. Instead of a resource speaker, Dr. Colbert will endeavor to teach a course based on Dr. Walter Marshall Horton's book, "Christian Theology; An Ecumenical Approach." For convocation lectures in the afternoon there will be a presentation on the coming union. Dr. Fred Mehrtens is tentatively scheduled to tell of the beginnings, history, theology, polity, and practice of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and Rev. Goff Bedford will speak for the Congregational Christian Churches.

Dr. Archie B. Bedford is preparing

a workshop on "Ethics" for the period following the evening meal. The Associates in Reading will be in charge of the Rev. Carolyn Welch and the Rev. M. B. Porter.

On several occasions churches, association and conference committees have consulted with and called upon the committee or its members for assistance and advice and all of the in-training ministers who have completed the courses are enthusiastic. About 70% are making progress; 50% are completing their work on time and with comprehension.

While there is still room for improvement and development, this is, without a doubt, the best plan yet evolved to meet our peculiar missionary situation here in the Southeast.

Your committee stands ready at any time to assist churches and ministers requesting help in problems of pastor-church relationships or any other matters within scope of the Convention Committee on Ministry and Churches.

Respectfully submitted,

Guy L. Colbert, chairman

EVANGELISM, STEWARDSHIP AND MISSIONARY EDUCATION



Rev. Joe A. French

Our Christian World Mission program is making steady progress in the Southeast Convention. Our churches are learning more about the program and gradually doing more in promoting the plans on the local level.

One of the healthy, as well as helpful, indications of this fact is that the Laymen's Fellowship of the Convention sponsored, and the local laymen participated in, "Our Day of Decision", the Convention-wide program September

25, 1955.

Following a planning session of your committee on our Every Church Canvass, Superintendent Butterfield was asked to prepare printed material. The principal promotion literature was a 20-page booklet designed to be used by each local church on Sept. 25 with ample copies for every person attending the called congregational meeting for the purpose of making a pledge to Our Christian World Mission. President Frank Gordon of the Laymen's Fellowship made a fine presentation of the program at the six area Every Church Canvass Training Sessions.

We regret to report that our goal-budget for this present year of \$30,500 was not fully subscribed by our churches and therefore many of our Convention-aided churches are suffering for lack of an adequate program. Also several churches that are in desperate need of financial aid to support an adequate program are receiving no aid from the Convention. We urge ministers and laymen to encourage their churches to accept the suggested goals so that we may be able to provide financial aid to churches of promise and that our Southeast Convention may achieve that position which we all desire — that of a SELF-SUPPORTING Convention. We also urge the use of the Every Member

Canvass as a part of the Stewardship program in every local church. Your committee is willing to aid churches in such programs.

Dr. Warren H. Denison has directed four Stewardship Institutes and Every Member Canvasses in our Convention: Chattanooga Pilgrim, LaGrange United, Lanett and Langdale. He will conduct an Every Member Canvass in East Tallassee Church in May.

With so many churches planning to build new houses of worship and others building additions, it was with considerable satisfaction that your committee was able to bring our own Dr. John R. Scottford to counsel with them on building programs. Churches visited by Dr. Scottford included Chattanooga Pilgrim, Pleasant Hill Community, Birmingham Pilgrim, East Tallassee, Pearson Union Hill, Douglas First, Columbus First, LaGrange United, LaGrange Hillside, and Langdale. Dr. C. Harry Atkinson, Director of the Bureau of Church Building of New York City, also visited several of our churches.

Efforts have been made by your committee to promote larger and more extensive programs of evangelism on a Convention-wide basis, but various circumstances have prevented the work that we believe should be done in this

(Cont. on Page 13)



Every Member Canvass Visitors of Lanett Who Were Trained by Dr. Warren A. Denison

SURVEY AND CHURCH AID

The missionary aid program of the Southeast Convention is one of the most important phases of the Convention program. And the "aid to churches" program accounts for one-third of the total SEC budget. The aid is important to the local situations because it helps them to strengthen themselves to the point where they become giving churches rather than receiving churches.

One of the most important aspects of committee function during this past year was a field trip through the Convention by the chairman and one of the committee members, the Rev. W. C. Carpenter. This trip gave to the committee and the Board of Directors a clear picture of the mission program in the Convention. The Convention must keep close contact with its mission projects because the money expended belongs to the churches of the Convention and is entrusted to the Board of Directors. The Board, in turn, must spend this money wisely and well and give an account of its trusteeship, or stewardship, to the Convention.

Because the Convention has reached the saturation point at the present time, as far as missionary aid is concerned, the committee at its last meeting in February discussed several questions which were presented to the Board of Directors. Those questions were:

1) To what extent are we justified in expending missionary funds in situations that give no promise of ever becoming self-supporting? Should there be a "top-limit" to church aid?

2) If a church requesting aid could do without it if a linked parish arrangement could be worked out, how much pressure should be used to "force" such an alternative to aid?

3) How justified are we in aiding churches when the amount of aid available can provide only part-time, untrained or inadequate leadership? Is this "better than nothing" arrangement valid?

4) Can the committee under our free government insist that before any aid

Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has many; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some. — Dickens

is granted a thorough every member canvass be made by capable leadership from the Convention? To what extent could the amount of aid be determined by the members and amount of local pledges obtained?

5) Is it possible to determine what percentage of the total Convention budget should be allocated for missionary aid to churches? Would such a limit be wise?

There are still some old established churches that need aid if they are to perform an adequate ministry to the communities in which they are located. There are still some projects that we may have to underwrite for several years to come, because they are strictly mission points. Some of these need aid now, but because all monies have already been allocated they must wait until money is available. Then, too, some of the churches that are now receiving aid must look forward to a cut, in order that other deserving parishes may be aided.

We still look forward to the day when we will be able to strengthen our Southeast fellowship by establishing new churches in some of the fast growing areas.

There is a definite need on the part of all for continued cooperation and financial support to Our Christian World Mission as we move toward complete self-support in the Convention. As we give ourselves wholeheartedly to the cause of God's Kingdom, responsibilities grow, and so do we. We who face up to the task that is ours, ultimately taste the joy of the Lord. Through steadfastness we become immortal.

Respectfully submitted,

Lowell A. Smoot, chairman

* * *

AIDED CHURCHES - 1956

Listed below are the churches now being aided by the Southeast Convention, and the amounts for the first three months of the current fiscal year:

Alexander City Hunt	\$100
Andalusia First	125
Brantley Parish	105
Garden City-Mt. Grove Parish	175



REV. LOWELL A. SMOOT

Headland Blackwood	100
Northwest Florida Parish	150
Shawmut Todd	150
Thorsby United	150
Rev. Earnest Shelton (travel)	60
Rev. Richard Waugh (travel)	60
Ambrose Christian	75
Doerun Poplar Arbor	30
Douglas First	150
Tifton First	600
Nashville Brookmeade	600
	\$2,630

In addition the Board of Home Missions has sent designated funds for Garden City-Mt. Grove and the North Alabama Area Ministry in the amount of \$300; and for Nashville Brookmeade in the amount of \$150.

Our character is but the stamp on our soul of the free choice of good or evil we have made through life.—J. C. Geikie

Inner sunshine warms not only the heart of the owner, but all who come in contact with it. — J. T. Fields

Woman's Fellowship

As the Women's Fellowship representative, my chief duty was attending all the board of directors meetings of the SEC. These meetings gave me an increasing appreciation of the entire work of our convention.

Our area presidents of the Women's Fellowship have sent in favorable reports. Mrs. A. D. Harry of Alabama writes of a quickened interest in many churches, financial gains, splendid church projects and the revitalizing of societies that had become inactive.

Mrs. Frank Gordon reports a closer fellowship among the groups in Georgia, so they do not feel isolated, and a greater interest in the mission work of the church.

Mrs. Lowell Smoot, in a splendid detailed report of the Tennessee-Kentucky women's work, tells not only of financial gains but of a variety of projects, both in cooperation on community events and in work for the individual churches.

We face a great challenge in the immediate future, as populations increase and shift. Our women's work must be vital, interesting, world-wide in its outreach. As retiring representative, I will recommend at the annual meeting in Charleston that our Women's Fellowship return to the leadership of a president, not a representative, and that this officer form an advisory council with the area presidents to meet several times a year for the uniting and furthering of the total program.

Respectfully submitted,
Isabel W. Porter

WOMAN'S GIFT REPORT

All reports on Woman's Gift are to be in the national office early in May, so a complete report can be presented at the General Council meeting in June. All state treasurers should send their reports to the Convention office by May 1st.

The Georgia women have already reported, as follows: North Georgia \$134.82; Central Georgia \$167.22; South Georgia \$71.44 — a total of \$373.48 with one or two churches unreported. Last year's total was \$362.48

Alabama and Kentucky-Tennessee women have not sent in their reports as yet.

Laymen's Report

It was hoped to have a full report from each church of the laymen's activities for the past year. A form was mailed to each church for this report, but to date there have been replies from but eight churches: Mt. Grove, Roanoke in Alabama; Bonifay New Effort, Florida; Ambrose, Atlanta Central, Richland, and Vanceville in Georgia; and Stearnes, Ky. My report from the floor to the SEC annual meeting will include all reports received by that date and will be available for publication in the May issue of **Southeast News**.

Reports received to date include those of four fellowships organized since the 1955 annual meeting — those at Hanceville, Ala., and Ambrose, Atlanta Central and Vanceville, Ga. The latter three have definite programs from which their churches and communities should be greatly benefitted. This is very encouraging.

It has been a busy year for your convention president. He has attended two of the quarterly meetings of the East Alabama-West Georgia Association of Fellowships, the Mid-winter meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pa., and served as dean of the Georgia summer camp at Waycross, Ga. He also spoke at six laymen's meetings in South Georgia, which were

arranged by Rev. Goff Bedford of Tifton First Church. The fellowship at Ambrose was organized at one of these meetings. He assisted our superintendent, Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, in the training sessions held to prepare laymen to present Our Christian World Mission program and goal in their churches. He attended three of the Atlanta Central Church men's meetings, which resulted in the organization of that group. Last April he accompanied Miss Lelia Anderson, our Pilgrim circuit rider, in her visits to several churches in Central and North Georgia, speaking to the men of the churches while she was instructing the church school staffs in Christian education teaching methods. He also assisted her in two of the church services when she delivered the sermon. Later, in the fall, he substituted in the pulpit on several occasions.

More could be accomplished if there were funds available for expenses and necessary materials such as many other conferences or conventions have available for the laymen's work. It is hoped that some action will be taken at this meeting to secure such funds.

Wm. Frank Gordon, president.



WM. FRANK GORDON AND MRS. M. B. PORTER JR.

SOUTHERN UNION COLLEGE REPORT

The 1955-56 school year is the best in the history of Southern Union. We have been faced with the problem of shortages, of course — shortage of dormitory space, classrooms, laboratory, library, gymnasium. The earliest "President's Report" in my file is for the 19-48-49 school year, and a comparison of the figures from that report with those of the current year will say more than a long report:

	1948-49	1955-56
Total enrollment	61	225
Income from donations	\$10,499	\$55,000
Staff members	9	23
Staff salaries	\$12,000	\$45,000
Tuition, room rent and board	3,982	15,000
Total budget	\$28,194	\$72,000

It must be remembered, of course, that in 1948-49 we had no G. I. students, which has helped to boost our enrollment during the past five years. We still have a large group of these students but we have concentrated in our recruiting program on non-veteran students. On March 15th we already had far more applications for enrollment next fall than we could possibly take care of with our present facilities. Getting a student body is not a problem for us right now. We must do something about a more adequate campus, however.

The Staff is giving serious consideration to expanding its present junior college program to include a three and possibly four-year program of teacher training. At the present time we do have a four-year program for ministerial training. Rev. Charles Bell will be the first one to earn this new four-year degree, Bachelor of Philosophy.

The future for Southern Union College is very bright.

Respectfully submitted,
Clyde C. Flannery, President

A QUAKER PRAYER

I shall pass through this world but once,
Any good, therefore, that I can do
Or any kindness that I can show
To any human being
Let me do it now.
Let me not defer it or neglect it for
I shall not pass this way again.



REV. CLYDE C. FLANNERY

Late News Flashes . . .

The Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, President of Southern Union College, has been called to Brookmeade Church in Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Thomas Isbell has resigned at Barnesville, Fredonia, and Meansville.

The Rev. Hugh Lasseter has been called to serve Evarts First Church in Kentucky.

The Rev. Henry C. Weaver has been called to Robbins Parish to serve Barton Chapel, Glen Mary and churches.

The Rev. Lowell A. Smoot has been called to the Southern Convention to serve Liberty Church, Henderson, S. C.

Dr. and Mrs. Guy L. Colbert are the proud parents of a girl, born Feb. 8. and named Carole Caye.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

The church news, the reports of the Women's Rallies with pictures and names of new officers, and the PF news will appear in the May issue of *Southeast News*.

We have held over all church news received this month, but please send us your latest news also, before the 25th of April, so we can add it too.

Congregational Christian Foundation At Vanderbilt

The Foundation is the direct descendant of the former Atlanta Theological Seminary and its purpose remains unchanged! — to encourage and support young people seeking a seminary education.

The Southeast Convention knows the importance of trained leadership and endorses the Foundation. The Foundation in turn recently revised the constitution to read that a majority of its Trustees must belong to the Convention.

The annual meeting was held in Nashville on March 8, 1956. Supt. Butterfield in his report expressed the hope that more young people would seek a seminary education.

As chairman of publicity, Rev. Lowell Smoot presented a brochure giving some interesting information. These brochures have been mailed to the ministers.

Jules Durham, who is a member of the Brookmeade Church of Nashville, gave the treasurer's statement. We are giving partial scholarships to six students. If these scholarships are to be continued until June, we need \$500.

Only four churches in the SEC have sent in financial support. These are Charleston Circular, Nashville Brookmeade, Evarts First, and Chattanooga Pilgrim. Pledges have been received from the Soddy-Daisy Parish.

I have been asked to serve as Chairman of the Trustees and want to make two observations:

FIRST, to be a minister, a person should be called of God and be willing to fit himself for the task — only the best is good enough for God.

SECOND, more and more churches are demanding qualified leaders. If churches want trained ministers, the churches should make scholarships available to train them.

Do you want a share in the training of your future minister? Send your check to the Southeast Convention office and designate the gift for the Congregational Christian Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,
Arnold Slater, Acting President

Every virtue carries with it its own reward, but none is so distinguished and pre-eminent a degree as benevolence.

PROMOTIONAL MEDIA

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention appointed a new committee, to be called "Promotional Media" and to work under the direction of the board, with the Rev. Thomas F. Shreve as chairman.

Under the Convention Constitution, a Committee of Promotion was set up of officers of the Convention with the Superintendent. A need was felt for a larger and more active committee to be composed of persons with some knowledge or experience in the field of promotional media, and to correspond on the Convention level with the new Office of Communications on the national level.

Appointed as members of the committee were the Reverends Archie Bedford, Arnold Slater, Herbert Long, Matthew B. Porter, Jr., Scott Morris, Jr., Henry Weaver, Robert Yoh, Joe French and Mrs. Jettie Logan. Staff members on the committee are Supt. Butterfield, the Rev. Annie R. Campbell and Mrs. Ed. A. Albright.

The committee adopted a definite program for the future:

- 1) A compact statement of the beliefs of the Congregational Christian churches for distribution.
- 2) A prepared dramatic radio program of interest to the general public which local churches could arrange to use on local stations — either taped or

recorded.

3) A compact and colorful invitational pamphlet to arouse interest in the Congregational Christian Churches. This will also be for general distribution.

4) A division of the Convention into districts with a member of the committee responsible for each district. The person appointed would give aid to anyone who needed help in publicity and would be responsible for getting convention-wide or national denominational news into local papers.

5) Preparation of a kit of basic materials on promotional media.

The last named — the promotional media kit for ministers — is now ready for distribution and will be on display at the meeting. Other items are in process of preparation, but the committee is hampered by lack of funds.

Included in the kit are:

- 1) What news is, how to prepare it, and ways in which it helps the local church.
- 2) Radio broadcasting techniques for ministers.
- 3) Duplicating processes and how they help the local church and pastor.
- 4) Preparing copy for **Southeast News**.
- 5) Orders or Worship and how to prepare them.



Rev. Herbert Long, Mrs. Jettie Logan, Rev. Thomas Shreve, Rev. M. B. Porter, Rev. Robert Yoh, and Rev. Henry Weaver.

Vacation Bible School Workshops

Plans are underway for a series of workshops to acquaint local churches with materials, ideas and the general set-up in conducting a Vacation Bible School. The Rev. Miss Annie R. Campbell, Mrs. Laura Askren, and Mrs. Raymond Berry will conduct the workshops; Mrs. Askren only through May 3.

The tentative schedule is as follows: April 29 at Alexander City Hunt Church from 2:30 until 7:00 p. m.; April 30 at Phenix City United Church from 4:00 until 9:00 p. m.; May 1 at some church in South Alabama, same time; May 2 at a church in Northwest Florida, same time May 3 in a South Georgia church, same time; and May 4 at a church in Central Georgia, same hours. May 5 is an open date; if another area is interested a workshop can be arranged at this time.

Evangelism

(Continued from Page 9)

department of our church program.

The Convention Board of Directors has approved Our Christian World Mission program of EVERY CHURCH VISITATION, May 15 through July 15, and EVERY MEMBER CANVASS CLINICS, July 15 through Oct. 1, as a Convention project, and your committee requests your approval of and cooperation with this plan.

Joe A. French, Chairman

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.—Pope

DR. B. PAUL PARDY

Our Fellowship was saddened by the sudden death on Easter Day of the Rev. Dr. B. Paul Pardy, minister of our Langdale Congregational Christian Church.

Ministers of the Southeast Convention and of the Valley Ministerial Association participated in the funeral services, which were held in the Langdale Church on April 3 under the direction of the Rev. Joe A. French.

The Dangers of Bibliolatry

by Roy C. Helfenstein

Reprinted from THE CHRISTIAN SUN

PART II

People have a right to know the truth about "the making of the Bible" and about the basis of its authority, as well as about how to read it most profitably. They have a right to know its true nature. They have a right to know that the Bible is far more than an encyclopedia of proof-texts to be used in support of pet theories and outworn dogmas and doctrines. People have a right to ask any sincere question about the Bible, and to make any inquiries about it they may wish. "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." The task of Bible students is to learn the background of the Bible — why the individual books of the Bible were written, why other books submitted to be included were rejected, and to recognize the relative moral, social and spiritual values of its 66 different books — to prize the Bible for its real worth, to recognize and appreciate that it is not all "pure gold" — that while the Old Testament contains much that is "pure gold," that it also contains much that is "dross"; much that is "good wheat" and much that is "chaff." The Bible student seeks to know the difference. He appreciates the fact that "The Bible" and "The Word of God" are not synonymous — that portions of the Old Testament are "The Word of God," while other portions are definitely not "The Word of God." It contains portions where the devil himself does the speaking.

We should prize the Bible above all other books, not because we think the Book in and of itself is supernatural, but because parts of it point us to "The Good Life"; and because parts of it introduce us to Jesus Christ, our only Lord and Saviour. But God forbid that we should ever make an idol of the Bible or worship the Bible instead of worshipping the God whom the New Testament presents to mankind. Christians should gladly face the fact that really the New Testament constitutes "The Christian Bible."

Thoughtful Christians rejoice in the

fact that the Bible is not perfect, for if it were, then erring humans would have so little in common with it. Not all the Bible is "The Word of God," nor is all of "The Word of God" found in the Bible. To those "in tune with the Infinite," to those most like Jesus, God has been speaking his Word down through the centuries since the beginning of Christianity.

Parts of the Bible — not all of it — contain "The Bread of Life" of which, if a man eat he will never hunger; and parts of the Bible — not all of it — are "The Water of Life" of which if a man drink, he will never thirst. The privilege and responsibility of Christians is to recognize that fact and to make the largest use of those parts, that they may hide in their hearts the salient truths of those parts of the Bible — that they "may not sin against God."

Bibliolatry is dangerous because it is an enemy to Christianity and to the unity of believers in Christ. It causes people to put their theories about the Bible at the center of their thinking in the place of God. Bibliolaters — people who worship the Bible — make erratic and senseless claims about its origin and content. They claim that all parts of the Bible are equally inspired — that the Old Testament is as much inspired as the New Testament. They ignore and deny the technical contradictions, the inaccuracies, the contrary statements, and the numerous discrepancies that may be found in the Old Testament. Of course these self-evident contradictions, discrepancies and inaccuracies are of minor importance and are truly inconsequential, but for bibliolaters to ignore and deny that such are in the book emphasizes the fact of their presence in the Bible and thereby detracts from the book itself.

Bibliolaters refuse to concede that the different books of the Bible were written by men who were human as all men are human. They contend that the Bible was written by God himself — that God was its author, that he and he alone was responsible for what was written and how it was written — that the writers to whom the various books of the Bible have been attributed were but puppets or automatons, and as such

are unaccountable for anything written in the original manuscripts which later became the Bible.

Bibliolaters completely overlook the fact that Christians had no part in the selection of the books that found place in the Old Testament, which was entirely determined by Judaists who were bitterly opposed to Christianity. They ignore the fact that many of the books in both the Old Testament and the New Testament were not the unanimous choice of those determining the selections made. Bibliolaters entirely overlook the fact that for many years there was much heated and bitter controversy between the contending groups responsible for making the selections, some contending to the end that the books of the Old Testament should not be included in the Christian Bible, as to do so, they declared, was "to play into the hands of the Judaists" who were such a thorn in the flesh to Saint Paul, and such occasion for deterrence to the progress of early Christianity. Some of those responsible for the canonizing of the New Testament rejected the books: Second Peter, James, Jude and Revelation. Even as late as Martin Luther and John Calvin, many Christian leaders, including both Calvin and Luther, were loathe to concede that these books should be read in Christian services — Luther, wrongly of course, going so far as to "cut the book of James out of the Bible with his pen-knife." Thus Christian scholars today realize that the Bible, as we have it, was determined by the majority vote of men and not by divine interposition. But the fact in no way detracts from the divine inspiration found in the Bible.

Only that part of the Bible which exalts God as man's loving Heavenly Father and reveres Jesus Christ as Lord of Life and Saviour of all who believe and follow him, is for us "The Word of God." Not any part of the Bible is "The Word of God" for us, which presents God as being less good and less loving than our Lord Jesus Christ. "Jesus alone reveals to the world what God is like and what God would have all mankind be like." No book — not even the Bible — can take the place of Je-

sus in the Christian's thinking, loving and living.

Christian evaluations would declare that nothing in the Bible or anywhere else that presents God, our loving Heavenly Father, as being less good than any good man we know, can be "The Word of God" for us. Many places in the Old Testament do that very thing. Moreover, nothing in the Bible or anywhere else that presents God as being a god of wrath and murder instead of his being a loving Heavenly Father who wills that none shall be lost, but that all shall be saved — nothing that thus presents God can be "The Word of God" for us or for thinking people anywhere.

Hence we "search the Scriptures," not because we think they all and always constitute "The Words of Life", but to find those portions of the scriptures which are "The Words of Life" because they make known to us the goodness, the power and the greatness of God. As Christians, we should not search the Scriptures or prize the Scriptures because we think that in them we have eternal life, but because we believe in the God and Father of all mankind, the God whom Jesus believed, loved, worshipped and trusted; and whom only the New Testament makes known to us.

By reverently and intelligently facing the truth about the Bible, we find a greater Bible, a richer Bible, a more wonderful Bible, a more meaningful Bible, a more usable Bible, a more glorious Bible.

A bibliolater may contend for argument's sake that every part of the Bible is equally inspired and of equal value, but when applying or when failing to be able to apply it to his own personal life, he cannot help knowing down deep in his own heart that the New Testament has priority claim over the Old Testament. As Dr. L. P. Jacks, of sainted memory, declared, "The religion men argue about is seldom the religion they live by."

The Bible is what it is and not what bibliolaters declare it to be — it is the record of "an amazing spiritual development" in the religious thinking of Palestinian folk over the centuries. The Bible starts from the bottom of the hill of man's acquaintance with and his understanding of God, and climbs to the summit of that hill in the matchless life and teachings of Jesus, our Lord

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

During the past year we have been most fortunate to have the following distinguished visitors and speakers from outside our Congregational Christian fellowship to the Southeast Convention to participate in our meetings:

Dr. Russell T. Loesch was guest speaker for the Convocation and Training School for ministers held May 2-6, 1955. Dr. Loesch is Minister and Secretary to the Chaplains and the Armed Forces Personnel of the Congregational Christian Churches.

Rev. I. R. H. Gnanadason of South Travancore, India, attended the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference at Pomona.

Miss Anna Carol Kingdon, recently returned from India and now working on her Master's Degree in Music, attended the Wadley Junior and Senior High Conferences, the Alabama Women's Retreat, and spoke at Atlanta Center, LaGrange United, Chipley Oak Grove churches last July.

Dr. John F. McClelland of Silver Springs, Md., represented the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions at the dedication services of Brookmeade Church in Nashville, Tenn., last May.

Dr. James M. Hess of Elon College and formerly a missionary to India, spoke at Waycross Family Camp in August.

Rev. Herman Reissig, secretary of International Relations of the Council for Social Action, and **Dr. John Reuling**, secretary for Africa and Mexico of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, spoke at Southern Union College in June.

Dr. Lelia Anderson, the Pilgrim Circuit Rider, visited churches in the area, teaching, preaching and counseling, and attended our annual meeting last April.

Miss Frances Charrier and **Miss Sally Higginbotham**, from New York and Ohio, served in Student Summer Service.

Miss Carolyn Goddard, Children's Work secretary under the Division of Christian Education in Boston, conducted a weekend workshop Oct. 21-23 at Atlanta Central Church.

Dr. John R. Scotford, nationally known consultant on church building, conducted institutes and visited churches Feb. 26 through March 9.

Mr. Curtis Schumaker and **Mr. William K. Newman**, of the Church Building Department, also visited churches in this area.

Dr. Warren H. Denison conducted one-week Stewardship and Every Member Canvass training sessions in four churches, and has another scheduled in May. Dr. Denison is one of our outstanding authorities on stewardship and church finance.

Mrs. Samuel Keck of New York recently spoke at all the Women's Rallies and at the PF meeting in Chattanooga.

The Rev. Ira Black of the City Work Dept., **Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss** of the Town and Country Dept., and **Dr. Stanley U. North**, General Secretary — all of the Board of Home Missions, have visited churches during the past year.

Carl Lambert Jr., and **Maggie Loosie** from the Cherokee Indian Reservation attended the PF conference in March.

Miss Deborah Brewster, student worker at Auburn and daughter of a C. C. South Dakota minister, has spoken at PF Rallies.

We have also had some young people and ministers from the Evangelical and Reformed Church attend various meetings and visit churches.

We are sorry we do not have a complete list and apologize for any name omitted. But the list we have certainly does show that the Southeast Convention has been enriched by many contacts with the wider fellowship this past year.

and Saviour. Bibliolaters deny the ideas of progressive revelation. But the progressive revelation of God to mankind is eternally witnessed by our Lord to all concerned in his declaration, "It was said to them of old time . . . but I say unto you." Likewise, the writer of the

Epistle to the Hebrews bore witness to the fact of progressive revelation, "God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers through the prophets by different portions and in various manners, hath in later days spoken unto us through his Son."

Fourth Annual Meeting

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

CIRCULAR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHARLESTON, S. C.

April 23, 24 and 25, 1956

THEME: "WITH LOVE AND GRACE DIVINE"

HYMN: "GOD OF OUR FATHERS WHOSE ALMIGHTY HAND"

Scriptures "Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." I Corinthians 16:13-14 RSV

MONDAY, APRIL 23

- 7:30 p. m. Call to order by the Moderator, the Rev. Archie Bedford
Opening remarks and welcome; history of Circular Church
- 8:00 p. m. The Hour of Consecration: worship service led by Rev. Raymond Berry, chaplain of the annual meeting
"Toward a Better Understanding of the Congregational Christian Message in the South", by Dr. Thomas Anderson of Atlanta Central Church
- 9:00 p. m. Choir of Circular Church

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

- 9:00 a. m. Moments of Meditation: the Chaplain
First Business Session, Rev. Archie Bedford presiding
Staff Reports:
 - Superintendent — the Rev. Erston M. Butterfield
 - Minister Christian Education — the Rev. Annie R. Campbell
 - Treasurer — Wm. Frank GordonCommittee Reports:
 - Christian Education — Mrs. Jettie Logan, chairman
 - Ministry and Churches — Rev. Guy L. Colbert, chairman
 - Survey and Church Aid — Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, chairman
 - Evangelism, Stewardship & Missionary Education — Rev. Joe A. French, chairman
- 11:00 a. m. Recess — 15 minutes
- 11:15 a. m. "Our Churches in American Life", Dr. Albert Buckner Coe, Moderator of the General Council
- 12:00 Luncheon: Women's Fellowship, Mrs. M. B. Porter presiding
Mrs. Wm. Emil Wisseman, speaker
Laymen's Fellowship, Wm. Frank Gordon presiding
Walter Graham, speaker (ministers invited)
- 2:30 p. m. Moments of Meditation: the Chaplain
- 2:45 p. m. Second Business Session, Odell Yancey, Moderator-elect presiding
Reports from the Fellowships: Women's, Laymen's, Pilgrim Fellowship
Presentation of a Resolution concerning the coming Union, Dr. Thos. Anderson
- 3:30 p. m. Address: Walter Graham, Executive Secretary, Nat'l. Laymen's Fellowship
- 4:00 p. m. Dismissal for tours of historical spots
- 7:30 p. m. The Evening Service of Worship
Processional
- 8:15 p. m. Address: Dr. Albert Buckner Coe, Moderator of the General Council
- 9:00 p. m. Reception for Dr. Coe in the Lecture Room of Circular Church

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

- 9:00 a. m. Moments of Meditation
- 9:15 a. m. Final Business Session: election of officers
- 10:30 a. m. Services of Dedication
The Installation of Officers, Supt. Erston M. Butterfield
The Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion: Reverends Berry and Bedford
- 11:30 a. m. Adjournment